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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q78451

Takeshi ISHIKAWA

Appln. No.: 10/714,630

Group Art Unit: 1762

Confirmation No.: 3245

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: November 18, 2003

For: HARD FILM AND HARD FILM-COATED TOOL

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents, other than any U.S. patents and patent publications, is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under § 1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

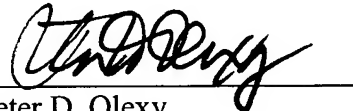
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/714,630

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of at least that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 26, 2004

*Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/714,630
Confirmation Number	3245
Filing Date	November 18, 2003
First Named Inventor	Takeshi ISHIKAWA
Art Unit	1762
Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	Q78451

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		JP	09 041 127		02-10-1997	Kobe Steel Ltd	Abstract
		JP	10 025 566		01-27-1997	Yamaguchi Pref Gov	Abstract
		DE	102 33 222	A1	02-20-2003	Kobe Steel Ltd.	No

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
		E. LUGSCHEIDER; Investigation of mechanical and tribological properties of CrAlN+C thin coatings deposited on cutting tools; Surface and Coatings Technology 174-175 (2003) 681-686; XP-002282705	
		O. KNOTEK; Properties of arc-evaporated CrN and (Cr, Al)N coatings; Surface and Coatings Technology, 45 (1991) 53-58; XP-002282706	
		MAKOTO HIRAI; Oxidation behavior of Cr-Al-N-O thin films prepared by pulsed laser deposition; Thin Solid Films 407 (2002) 122-125; XP-002282707	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.